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Yoonie Han

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UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences

Guest Artist Recital: Yoonie Han, *piano*

Concert Program

Tango Issac Albeniz (1883–1909)
Leopold Godowsky (1870–1938)

Goyescas, Op. 11 Enrique Granados (1867–1916)
I. Los requiebros
II. Coloquio en la reja
III. El fandango de candil
IV. Quejas, o La Maja y el ruiseñor
V. El Amor y la muerte
VI. Epilogo: Serenata del espectro

Program Notes

In 1911 Enrique Granados premiered his suite for piano *Goyescas*, a set of six pieces inspired by the works of the Spanish painter Francisco Goya. Such was the success of this piano suite that he expanded it into an opera based on the same subject in 1914. It was staged for the first time at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City on 28 January 1916, while World War I raged in Europe. On his return journey to Spain after the successful premiere, his ship was torpedoed by the Germans. While attempting to rescue his wife from drowning, he fell into the rough

seas and died.

At the time of his death, Granados had composed one opera, four zarzuelas, several dozen piano pieces, chamber works, tone poems, songs and edited 26 sonatas by Scarlatti. He had also been a teacher with some notable pupils at the Granados Academy in Barcelona which he founded, but he left few recordings.

In a letter to a fellow composer, Granados explained the inspiration he felt:

"I have concentrated my entire personality in *Goyescas*. I fell in love

with the psychology of Goya and his palette; with his lady-like Maja; his aristocratic Majo; with him and Duchess of Alba, his quarrels, his loves and flatteries. That rosy whiteness of the cheeks contrasted with lace and black velvet with jet, those supple-waisted figures with mother-of-pearl and jasminelike hands resting on black tissue have dazzled me."

The terms Majo and Maja refer to people of lower social classes who distinguished themselves with elaborate fashion and bohemian attitude. The Duchess of Alba and her husband, in contrast, were the richest couple in the Kingdom of Spain. The Duchess was one of Goya's favorite portrait subjects; so much so, that the exact nature of their relationship is unclear. There were rumors, never substantiated, that they were lovers.

Goyescas tells a tragic tale of doomed lovers. Its six movements come across as a unified whole that is cyclic in its use of operatic motives. In the era when Goya was painting — the late 18th and early 19th Centuries — Spain was still a major world power. Granados's most productive years, on the other hand, closely followed Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War and its consequent loss of the remnants of its colonial empire, such as Cuba and the Philippines. If Goya captured the glory of Spain in painting, Granados was retrieving that lost glory, and infusing it into his music.

Goyescas was published in two volumes, consisting of six individual pieces, each with its own title. The piano suite has the subtitle "Los majos enamorados" (The Majos in Love). The first, playful *Los requiebros* is a jota, a song and dance form from Aragon. It is lively and is danced and sung accompanied by castanets, with the interpreters wearing regional costumes.

In Granada's Jota there are brilliant changes of color and tempo suggesting the compliments and flattery that two rivals bestow on the woman they both love. The second movement, *Coloquio en la reja* (Conversation in the Window), the majo pursues love from the maja. The theme comes from a song Granados wrote called *El amor del majo* (The majo's love). These same passages will be repeated in *El Amor y la Muerte* (Love and Death), which changes in mood from nostalgia to passionate tragedy. This is an example of the cyclic nature of the suite. The third movement, *Fandango del candil* (Fandango by Candlelight), is a capricious and passionate dance. It is suffused with nocturnal revelry.

In the fourth movement, *Qujas o la maja y el ruiseñor* (The Maiden and the Nightingale), the heartbroken maja is alone on the balcony with a nightingale. This is one of the few Granados works to incorporate a genuine folk song, "*Le spectre disparaît pincant les cordes de sa guitar*" (the ghost disappears, plucking the strings of his guitar).

The last two movements utilize various thematic motives from the previous movements. Each movement is independent, but the entire piece is cyclic and this creates uniformity through the use of musical quotations from previous movements. According to Granados: 'All of the themes of Goyescas are united in *El amor y la muerte* . . . intense pain, nostalgic love and the final tragedy – death.

Sound and visual imitations of flamenco guitar, songs and dances are reflected in Goyescas as dynamic inflection, tempo fluctuation, suspensions, ornaments, specific expressive markings. They contribute to the charm, deceptive, flirtation, coyness, seductiveness, sensuality, and elegance of the musical language he used in Goyescas, his masterpiece.

Artist Biography

Praised for her "flowing tones, poetic phrasing and heavenly singing melodies" (Cincinnati Inquirer), and "musical imagination and feel for complex textures drew vivid images" (Washington Post), South Korean pianist Yoonie Han has won top prizes in distinguished international competitions and the highest accolades for her poetic performances in major concert halls in the U.S. and around the world.

In 2009, Ms. Han was honored with the Gawon Music Award as the "most brilliant pianist aged 17 to 31 of any nationality who possesses the most promising potential for global prominence."

She is the first-prize winner of the Washington International Piano Competition, Fulbright Concerto Competition, World Piano Competition, Kosciuszko Chopin Competition, Juilliard's Gina Bachauer Piano Competition, Juilliard's Frederich Nordmann Piano Competition, Music Teachers' National Association, and has garnered major prizes at the Helsinki Maj Lind International Piano Competition, Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli Prize, Concorso Pianistico Ettore Pozzoli Internaziale, Valencia / Paterna, and Recontre International Piano Competitions. Following her 2001 grand-prize award in the Korea National Music Competition, the Korean Ministry of Culture named her its "most promising young artist." She is the recipient of "Brava!" award given by the Italian Academy Foundation, as well as an award from London Keyboard Trust.

Having made her solo debut with the Seoul Philharmonic at Seoul Arts Center at age 13, Ms. Han has since performed with the Berlin Symphoniker, Buffalo Philharmonic, Helsinki Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, Banff Festival Orchestra, Artosphere Festival Orchestra, I Pomeriggi Musicali di Milan, Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, New York Concert Artists Symphony Orchestra, Juilliard Pre-College Symphony. She has played such celebrated venues as at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Frick Collections, Symphony Space, Boston University Tanglewood Festival, Harvard University, New York University, University of Florida, Embassy Series in Washington D.C., Rockefeller University's Tri-Noon Series, Myra Hess Series, Phillips Collections in the U.S., Berlin Philharmonie, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Bergamo Festival in Italy, Salle Cortot in France, Mozart Museum in Czech Republic, and SeJong Performing Arts Center in Korea. In 2012-13, with supports from Fulbright Foundation, she has toured Steinway Halls in U.S., and Europe. Her performances have also been broadcast on WQXR- New York, NPR's "Artist Showcases", Chicago's WFMT, and many other radio stations. Her debut album was released by Concert Artists Guild. Her second album, 'Love and Longing' on Steinway Records was "Album of the week" on WQXR and made the Top 21 on the Billboard Classical Chart. Her upcoming album, "Goyescas," also on Steinway Records, will be released in 2017 to mark the 150th anniversary of birth of the composer, Enrique Granados.

Ms. Han received her Bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music studying with Eleanor Sokoloff, her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School as a pupil of Robert McDonald, and her Doctorate at SUNY Stony Brook, privately studied with

Music faculty at Bilkent University in Turkey. She has given lectures and masterclasses at Harvard University, New York University, Baruch College of City University of New York, Boston University, College of William & Mary, San Francisco Conservatory, Steinway Hall Washington D.C., California State University in Sacramento, Stony Brook University of State University of New York, Fulbright College of University of Arkansas, University of North Dakota, Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy.

As an avid Chamber Musician, Yoonie Han is the founder of the Gloriosa Piano Trio, with which it had a sold-out debut at the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida. The Trio has taught and performed at New Jersey City University, University of North Florida, Emory University, Shorter University, and Georgia South Western University. She has collaborated with Canadian Brass, Alexander String Quartet, Attacca Quartet, Aeolus Quartet, Anthony McGill, Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artists Program, and Kronberg Academy in Germany.

Ms. Han has also enjoyed special sponsorships from Roche Bobois, the Paris-based international retailer of fine furniture; Brequet, Switzerland's leading maker of luxury timepieces, and Dolce & Gabbana, the Italian fashion house, which has supplied gowns for her concerts.

She has performed private concerts for the American Cancer Society, Philippines Cancer Society, Legal Aid Society, American Friends of London Philharmonic, and New York Asian Week.

Ms. Han is an Assistant Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at Bilkent University, Turkey. Yoonie Han is a Steinway Concert and Recording Artist.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- Wed 6 Arkansas Beethoven**
Performance Series, Concert 1
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Wed 13 Arkansas Beethoven**
Performance Series, Concert 2
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Thu 14 Fulbright Trio**
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Sat 16 Tatsuya Percussion Improv**
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Wed 20 Arkansas Beethoven**
Performing Series, Concert 3
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Sun 24 Faculty Showcase**
3:00 p.m., Faulkner Performing Arts Center
\$10 general admission; \$5 student/faculty/senior

SEPTEMBER, CONT.

- Tue 26 Jake Hertzog Trio**
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Wed 27 Faculty Recital: Catalina Ortega, flute**
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Thu 28 Guest Artist Recital: William Wielgus, oboe**
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free
- Fri 29 Guest Artist Recital:**
Patrick Dailey, countertenor
7:30 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free

OCTOBER

- Sun 1 Guest Artist Recital: Philip Wharton, violin**
and John Krebs, piano
3:00 p.m., Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, free

Ushering and stage management for this concert provided by
Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha.

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The University of Arkansas, Department of Music is housed in the George and Boyce Billingsley Music Building and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Home to over 300 music students and forty five faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the baccalaureate and graduate levels.

Through generous support from alumni and friends, the Department of Music became an All-Steinway School in 2010. The University of Arkansas is the third SEC school to gain the distinction and one of only 150 universities worldwide with the honor.

With the completion of the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center, the University of Arkansas added a world class performance venue. The Department recital hall, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, is located in the Fine Arts Building, adjacent to the Music Building. The 200-seat Concert Hall offers an intimate setting for chamber and solo recitals and is the host for more than 300 concerts annually.

For more information on the Department, contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at music@uark.edu, or visit our department page at www.music.uark.edu.